

Message Text

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UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0422

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SW
SUBJECT: COURT HANDS DOWN CONVICTIONS IN TERRORIST AFFAIR

REF: 77 STOCKHOLM 1433

1. STOCKHOLM DISTRICT COURT JANUARY 31 HANDED DOWN CONVICTIONS FOR 14 OF 16 PERSONS ACCUSED IN THE SO-CALLED "TERRORIST AFFAIR" INVOLVING A PLOT BY WEST GERMAN CITIZEN NORBERT KROCHER AND HIS SWEDISH COHORTS TO KIDNAP FORMER MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION ANNA-GRETA LEIJON LAST APRIL. KROCHER HAS SINCE BEEN EXPELLED TO WEST GERMANY, WHERE HE IS IN CUSTODY OF THE AUTHORITIES.

2. THE COURT RULED THAT KROCHER WAS INDEED SERIOUS IN PLANNING THE ABUDUCTION OF MRS. LEIJON, AND WOULD HAVE CARRIED OUT THE CRIME HAD POLICE NOT MOVED IN AND ARRESTED THE GROUP AS THEY DID LAST APRIL. THE COURT BASED ITS RULING ON THE JUDGEMENT THAT IN A SOCIETY WITH "ALMOST COMPLETE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, PRESS, AND DEMONSTRATION" SUCH AS SWEDEN, THERE WAS NO EXCUSE FOR USE OF VIOLENCE TO OVERTHROW THE ESTABLISHED ORDER OR TO EXPRESS A POLITICAL OPINION. HOWEVER, IN
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CONSIDERATION OF THE AGES OF THE ACCUSED, ALMOST ALL OF WHOM WERE IN THEIR 20'S OR 30'S, THE COURT CONSIDERED IT OPPORTUNE TO HAND DOWN LENIENT SENTENCES.

3. THE LONGEST SENTENCE, FOUR YEARS IMPRISONMENT, WAS GIVEN TO A 24-YEAR-OLD COMPUTER OPERATOR WHO WAS CONSIDERED BY THE COURT TO HAVE BEEN KROCHER'S CLOSEST CONFIDANT.

HE WAS CONVICTED FOR A NUMBER OF CRIMES, INCLUDING CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT KIDNAPPING, GRAND THEFT, CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT GROSS ROBBERY, ATTEMPT TO COMMIT DANGEROUS DESTRUCTION, AND RECEIPT OF STOLEN GOODS. A 32-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WHO COHABITATED WITH KROCHER A NUMBER OF YEARS AND WAS AWARE OF HIS PLANS WAS GIVEN A SUSPENDED SENTENCE FOR ROBBERY, AUTO THEFT, AND RECEIPT OF STOLEN GOODS. A 22-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS GIVEN 30 MONTHS FOR HELPING KROCHER IN HIS KIDNAPPING PLANS AND FOR ASSISTING IN THE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO EXPLODE A BOMB OUTSIDE AN OFFICE OF A SPANISH TOURIST AGENCY. ALONG WITH HER, A 22-YEAR-OLD STUDENT WAS GIVEN 18 MONTHS FOR THE ATTEMPTED BOMBING OF THE TRAVEL AGENCY, WHICH WAS MEANT TO BE A "PROTEST" AGAINST THE FRANCO REGIME. OTHERS WHO WERE CONVICTED RECEIVED LESSER SENTENCES FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN KROCHER'S CRIMINAL PLANS.

4. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE MOST STRINGENT SENTENCES, INCLUDING THE ONE METED OUT TO THE COMPUTER OPERATOR, WILL BE APPEALED.
PERRY

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